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#### An Appeal to the Rodents.

On December 3 resolutions were introduced in the Senate by Mr. FORAKER and Mr. PENROSE calling for information bearing upon the dismissal of 167 enlisted men of the United States Army. As a result of the information thus obtained from the President and the War Department, Senator FORAKER, on December 19, asked that the matter be printed and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs "with instructions to take such testimony as may be necessary to establish all the facts" of the affray at Brownsville August 13.

On the following day this proposal was submitted by Senator FORAKER in the form of a resolution which was probably unfortunately worded and which has been changed several times since for reasons approved by its proponent. This original proposal was a simple and straightforward call for an investigation which should "establish all the facts" of the affray, only that and nothing more. Fearing that it might lead to a question of the rights and powers of the Executive Senator Longe introduced an amendment to the Foraker resolution by which the scope of the investigation was limited to an inquiry into the facts of the affair. This precipitated the controversy which has followed, into which questions and issues have been injected which have no proper place in the Senatorial debate.

Into the seething whirlpool of discussion of the race question, of the constitutional and statutory powers of the Executive, and a most deplorable mass of personalities, there is now thrown a remarkable charge. It is that this attempt to open some court of justice to men who may be the victims of an unintentional injustice is a blow aimed at the Executive by the trusts and the corporate interests supposed to have been injured or offended by the policies of the President. It is doubtful if a better reply to this charge can be made than that of the Washington Star of Janhary 21. In an article headed "The Baby Act and Brownsville," the Washington newspaper says:

"There is one word that fits this contention like a glove. It is short, and racy of the street. Lacking the approval of the drawing room, as also of the study, it yet carries a meaning so forcible and comprehensive it may in time become a classic. Rats!"

#### Outcome of the Meeting of French Bishops.

The plenary meeting of French Bishops which took place last week seems at first sight to have had no effect on the relations of the Catholic Church to the civil power. In their address to Pope Pius X. the prelates virtually say that they have no compromise to suggest, but await the instructions of the Vatican concerning the attitude which they should take with regard to the requirements embodied in the Separation act of 1905 and in the supplemental law recently passed. The unanimity, however, with which this deferential position was taken is of itself impressive, as showing that in the existing episcopate there remains scarcely a trace of the old Gallican spirit of independence. The Catholic Church in France was never so ultramontane as it is to-day, when it might apparently obtain many temporal advantages by pursuing a different course.

For the moment, then, the situation is as follows: The Catholic Church in France has lost not only the stipends which under the Concordat were paid to Bishops and priests, but also the control of its property, which up to December 12 it might have retained by forming the associations cultuelles which the Separation act prescribed. The Bishops and priests are homeless; the seminaries have been dissolved; the theological students who were preparing for the priesthood have been conscripted for military service, and the funds bequeathed for religious purposes by pious persons are in the hands of the civil authorities. Priests who have undertaken to hold meetings in church buildings have been arrested and fined for omitting to make the declaration required by a law of 1881.

What, then, is to be done? Shall the use of church buildings be renounced and congregations be told to assemble in private dwellings? For the moment, at all events, recourse to that alternative will not be made. The faithful will continue to come together in the churches and thus compel the Government either to close those edifices or else to continue to perform the odious task of arresting and punishing priests for omitting to make the legal declaration of an intention to hold a public meeting. We call the task odious because hereafter the priests will not be permitted by their Bishops to pay the derisory fines which hitherto have been imposed upon them but will have to suffer imprisonment. That is a spectacle which if prolonged would appeal strongly to the sensibilities and sense M equity characteristic of the French

The Clemenceau Government does not intend the spectacle to be prolonged, however. It means to make no martyrs. Alive to the vehement reaction which almost certainly would follow

of Deputies, which, in the case of meetings held for religious purposes, abolished that part of the law of 1881 which exacts a formal declaration. When this step has been taken there will be no necessity of holding religious services in private houses. The churches will remain open, and priests, with their congregations, will be at liberty to use them when they choose.

So long, then, as M. CLEMENCEAU is Premier and M. BRIAND is Minister of Justice the chances of violent friction between the Church and the State will be minimized. The Church has been ruthlessly despoiled, but its ministrants seem likely to suffer less than has been feared, owing to the lavish contributions for their assistance which have been made in France and in foreign countries. Undoubtedly there is many a parish too poor to maintain a priest, but in such a case provision will be made from a new diocesan fund, which will be placed and kept beyond Government control. The doubt whether Bishops and priests would be able to continue their labors after the stipends paid by the civil power were withdrawn is no longer tenable Catholicism seems as certain to be selfsupporting in France as it is in the United Kingdom and the United States."

It was, indeed, a memorable exhibition of concord and devotion which the Bishops gave at their plenary meeting. With such unshakable men at the head of it, the French Church is indestructible Governments will change, but she will stand firm.

#### Do They Want Ambassadors?

It is now evident that the suggestion of a Chilean Ambassador for Washington has touched no responsive chord in any part of Central or South America, not excepting Chile itself. There is reason to believe, indeed, that the suggestion is most unwelcome in practically every one of the Spanish American republics. During the last few days the atmosphere of diplomatic circles at the capital has been surcharged with comment, the result being that studious observers of the situation are left with but a single logical inference—the inference that the only advocates of the proposed change are gentlemen who wish, expect or hope to become its beneficiaries.

The others do not take at all kindly to the prospect. It may be said with truth that neither in Central nor South America is there any intelligent and responsible element which demands additional display or expense in connection with the diplomatic service. On the contrary it seems to be the opinion of a large majority of the Spanish Americans one meets and talks to on terms of good will and mutual respect that this same service should be simplified and, curtailed if it is to be amended at all. Some of the more experienced officials who have served in Europe as well as in North America are frank to say that their own countries would be vastly benefited by a sweeping abolition of the whole costly and superannuated establishment. All important affairs of State, they claim, are in fact transacted by the

chancelleries immediately concerned. What is the embassy or the legation? A mere receptacle for telegrams and letters. What is the Ambassador or the Minister Plenipotentiary? A mere messenger and go-between. In these days of submarine communication, bringing Governments, however distant, into intimate and immediate contact and making conference a matter of minutes, what

is the necessity for pompous, empty pageantry which delays and beclouds the processes of mutual funderstanding instead of expediting them? Why maintain an Ambassador, together with his bedizened retinue and his processional magnificence, for the sole purpose of calling at some foreign chancellery to deliver a note or a message which could

be delivered with much less cost to the

sender and much greater convenience to

the recipient by other and unostentatious

though equally effective means? Our Latin American friends, in a word, are much more practical and progressive than it has hitherto pleased us to suppose. So far from cherishing ideas of display and vainglorious self-exploitation at the expense of their respective Governments they are strongly in favor of erasing the entire comedy of the diplomatic system and substituting a consular machinery throughout the world. And coming back to Chile we have yet to find an important Chilean in this country who believes that his people or the chancellery at Santiago can have initiated the movement for an Ambas-

### sador at Washington. Where Friendship is Sacred.

The Senate of the United States is doing a useful work in teaching a generation too prone to cynicism that the sentiment of friendship is not dead. There was a time not long ago when the letter of the irascible Governor of Jamaica would have been made, as soon as read, an international complication in the Senate; but now that body can find time only to discuss the love of one Senator for another and to reconcile Senators who have fallen out. The Senate is the stronghold and sanctuary of friendship; it is the most clubbable, homiletical and gregarious legislative body in the world. It exemplifies the idea of the brotherhood of man; marooned on a Pacific island Senators would form a social paradise into which no serpent of discord could enter. It is true that Senators do not always agree; they have their little tiffs and misunderstandings, and sometimes exhaust the language of epithet before the tie that binds is spliced again, but always they end by loving one another with an emotion stronger

and deeper than ever. "A generous friendship no cold medium knows,

Burns with one love, with one resentment glows. No one outside the Senate understood before the tremendous exchange of personalities on Monday how much Mr. CARMACK and Mr. TILLMAN admired each other. In a former generation the chamber would have been a sickening scene of carnage before the entente cordiale was restored, but the chromatic persecution, it will avoid the necessity effulgence of the rainbow always glows of resorting to imprisonment by enact- in the Senate nowadays after a storm of amateur skating in the United States."

by Mr. CARMACK and Mr. TILLMAN when they made up on Monday is hopelessly disqualified to sit in the Senate.

Mr. SPOONER'S affection for Mr. TILL-MAN used to be as famous as the attachment of those scriptural and classical persons for each other, whose names we do not cite, for, after all, theirs was a pale affinity by comparison; but since Mr. SPOONER'S rash outpouring of rebuke the other day, while animadverting upon the Brownsville raid, it was supposed that all was over between them. But not so: they "shook hands and buried the past" on Monday after a historic scene of incrimination and recrimination. A general love feast followed, all the Senators joining in it with voices broken by emotion. Nothing affected their constituents so deeply, we believe, as Mr. TELLER's warning that in future they must not be waggish and personal and transgress the rules of the house committee of the club. Mr. MALLORY of Florida heaped fuel upon the blaze of friendship by reminding Senators of a forgotten rule, adopted at the suggestion of the late Mr. HOAR of Massachuesetts, himself one of the most benignant of men, that Senators must not question the motives of their brothers or speak disrespectfully of a sovereign State.

The House on Monday passed the Artillery bill and the Campaign Contributions bill, and the General Pension Appropriation bill was introduced, while the Senate was demonstrating that friendship is sacred. The comparative services to the country rendered by the egislative bodies at either end of the Capitol we leave to the public judgment, but surely the ethical value of the Senate's work ought not to be overlooked by the discerning.

#### Legislation For the Police Com missioner.

Commissioner BINGHAM has drafted two bills providing for important changes in the organization of the Police Department The purpose of these bills is to strengthen the hands of the Commissioner, and to confer upon him authority commensurate with the responsibility he carries. The neasures have been introduced in the Legislature and now await the pleasure of the Assemblymen and Senators.

A number of policemen who enjoy soft berths under the present laws oppose these measures. Their opposition is due to their own complete understanding of their incompetence and the fear that every unworthy public servant has of honest administration. These policemen are raising money to fight the bills advocated by the Commissioner.

It is the Legislature's duty to decide who shall control the Police Department of New York city. Shall it be managed by the Commissioner in the interests of the taxpayers? Or shall it be conducted by the men in their own way and for their own benefit, regardless of the needs and necessities of the citizens who support it?

If any honest lawmaker is in doub as to what his answer to these questions should be he should consider seriously the history of the department and give due weight to the fact that its shortcomings and delinquencies have been caused generally, if not always, by the overwhelming influence its permanent employees have exerted in the formulation and enforcement of its policies

## The Big Stick in Athletics.

Twice within a fortnight the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States has shown grit and backbone. Twice President Sullivan of that organization has waved with gloved hands a big stick.

There is an international aspect to each episode. The first declaration of independence followed the strictures of the Henley stewards on the amateur status of American oarsmen. It was a warning that no similar interference would be tolerated by the Amateur Athletic Union. "When the time comes for the Olympic games in 1908," said the president at a dinner in his honor at the New York Athletic Club, "we shall send a team to England every member of which will have his record carefully scrutinized. If the English reject an entry the whole team will be taken out. We shall decide for ourselves on the status of American athletes and that will settle it."

In the second incident a fight to a finish has been declared. The Amateur Athletic Union is ur, in arms to defend its alliance with the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union. At the annual convention of the Canadian organization the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association failed in an attempt to have the constitution amended so as to allow professional skaters to enter races against amateurs. The Canadian Skating Association supported the amendment. On the defeat of the motion both withdrew from the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union. A result is that two skating championships are to be held in Canada on February 2. At Montreal, under the management of the Canadian Skating Association, professionals and unregis tered amateurs may compete; on the same day at Toronto, under the auspices of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union, the races and figure contests will be open only to registered amateurs.

A complication appears in the fact that at its annual meeting in this city last week the National Amateur Skating Association voted to permit its members, the United States skaters, to enter at Montreal. There was an ignoring of the Toronto championship. The action puts the skating and the athletic unions of the two countries at loggerheads. The registration committee of the Amateur Athletic Union has notified all American skaters that they must not compete at Montreal under penalty of disqualifica-

tion. President SULLIVAN says: " Such issues as this enable the Amateur Athletic Union to show that it stands for clean, honest sport, and we will not tolerau competition between professionals and amateurs in any branch of sport over which we have jurisdiction or of which we approve. If the skaters want to be good boys they have a chance to hold another meeting and to rescind their resolution. Otherwise all who skate at Montreal will be disqualified, the alliance with the National Skating Association will be void and the Amateur Athletic Union will take control of

ing the bill now pending in the Chamber words. A man insensible to the tender . Ilnlike the shillelahs of Donnybrook

ness of the pledges of friendship uttered | Fair, the big stick of the Amateur Athletic Union does not seek heads to hit. It is wielded only on sufficient provocation; and when a thwack stands for clean sport all amateurs will wish more power to the hand that swings it.

### Oh that mine enemy had written a letter

The fining of General José MIGUEL GOMEZ for being arrested at a cockfight in Marianao by the rural guards seems to make him the logical candidate for President of the Liberal party. As a martyr to the national sport the General is in great luck

In spite of some slight evidence to the contrary we cannot resist the conclusion that Sir ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM is an invention of Mr. WILLIAM S. GILBERT'S.

President Woodbow Wilson is no doubt an abstraction to the Democrats represent ing Hudson in the New Jersey Legislature Those practical statesmen must be more mystified than anybody else by the persistent attempt to thrust political honor upon the reluctant Princeton historian.

Governor [JEFF] Davis will be a conspict If he keeps quiet and sits on his lid Besides, he can't be the leading eccentric comedian. That rôle is engaged.

### If Oregon is to have a State Inspector of Hen

There must be a Federal Bureau of Hens Henneries, Hen Foods and Hen Products The hen is too great a figure in the national industry, too essential to the general welfare, to be regulated by the several States.

# There is an inclination in some quarters to ridicule Congressman Galwas of Tennessee.—Challe noogs News.

The man capable of ridiculing Dr. John WESLEY GAINES would "speak disrespect fully of the equator" and refuse to admit the precession of the equipoxes. Dr. GAINES has the regularity and the inevitability and the inexhaustibility of nature. Does anybody crack jokes at the expense of a waterspout or jest in the presence of the

Colonel BRYAN'S success as a farmer continues to pump enthusiasm from visitors to his agricultural experiment station. One of them says that every foot of available ground on the Bryan place is "made to produce the maximum." Nebraska has long been hot for minimum freight rate laws. Why doesn't some Bryan enthusias propose a maximum farm product law It is unjust to smaller or less skilled tillers of the soil than Mr. BRYAN to expose them to his competition. There should be a legal limit to cultivation and yield. Why should the swollen wealth of the land escape regulation?

Don't overfeed the Governor.-Waterbury Re

Dr. EDWARD EVERETT HALE'S "My Double and How He Undid Me" furnishes the proper relief for overfed Governors. Each Gov erner should have a double, charged with the duty of attending banquets, making after dinner speeches and visiting cattle shows and colleges.

January 19 will shine in the annals of Iowa as Button Day. Every person of good will fastened to his coat or her shirtwaist a button with the strange device: 'Des Moines Does Things." Button Day is also known as Boosting Day. The thing which Des Moines is resolved to do is to become a city of 150,000 inhabitants without further notice. From 11 to 11:10 A. M ousiness was suspended. Everybody was buying buttons. Thursday the young women of the city "agreed to boycott all the young men who do not loosen up Saturday and buy a button." The young men "loosened" up. Both houses of the Legislaure adjourned for ten minutes to "boosting" speeches. A day of triumph for Des Moines. Probably Button Day will be made a legal holiday.

The Hon. CHARLES E. TOWNSEND, M. C. of the Second Michigan district and railroad rate regulation, sets a happier face to the future. He can "see the dawn of a brighter day." Corporate interests are not less busy in deeds of darkness, but the country is safe. Mr. Townsend's friends want to make him Governor.

#### The Chicago Tribune prints this summary of an educational discussion:

"Riot over basketball. Schoolboys fight til the police are called. Game in Wendell Phillips gymnasium between home team and one from Lak clubs are used. Faculty peacemaker knocked

It is satisfactory to know that our young barbarians all at play are enjoying them selves thoroughly and getting hardy exercise. Evidently basketball will atone for all the effeminate changes introduced into

We salute with cordial appreciation Mr. LUCE, a member of the General Court of Massachusetts from Somerville. He is a sociologist and a thinker worthy of his State and his job. He has introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor within four hundred feet of a railroad station. This would put a number of hotels out of business. What does a sober and respectable man in a hotel? His place is at home. Railroad stations are for the supposed convenience of travellers. Massachusetts doesn't want travellers. Strangers corrupt the morals and degrade the ideals of the natives. Massachusetts wants her people to be homekeeping. If they are allowed to go out of the State they will be exposed to injurious temptations and luxuries and may lose the stern and rockbound simplicity of native manners. Mr. Luce is on the threshold of a great remedy and reform. We feel sure that his next bill will order the destruction of railroad stations and the re moval of railroad tracks. As for the sale of liquor, it should be "segregated" in some inaccessible reservation in Massachusetts

## No Slave of the Purists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: May a humble yet rampant ink slinger register his approval of your stand as to "had better" and "got"? "Had better," "got," the split infinitive, and the preposion, which is not a good thing to end a s with, are the shibboleth of the schoolmistress, the purist and every one else who believes that man was made for speech and not speech for man. I have been "kept in" many times as a result of

the conflict between good English and schoolmis tress's English, but my spirit is yet unbowed. By the way, why is it that we don't mind dining with the man who tells us we "had better" and we do mind dining with the man who tells us "what G. E. KING. NEW YORK, January 22.

Mr. Gompers as a Dickens Scholar TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Where in Dictens's "Christmas Carol" does Mr. Samuel Gompers find "Sophia Beck" reproved for eating

His set of Dickens must have come from the li brary of the good ship Wabble.

I wonder is he as well informed on the "labor uestion" as he is on the history of "Trotty Veck."

We've had our fill of end seat hogs And borne them like a lamb;

AMBITION IN THE NAVY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.-In its general alm the Navy Personnel bill is like the scheme advanced from time to time in connectio with promotions in the army. It looks toward an improvement in the efficiency of the service through a system of promotion by elimination. Promotion by seniority, in both army and navy, may and in fact does land in high command men who are quite unfit for it. Another result is that by the time a naval officer reaches flag rank or an army officer reaches the brigadier generalcy, he is near the age limit which takes him out of the service.

While the plan has its opponents, probe

bly a large majority of our officers, in both the army and navy, are in favor of a system of promotion by elimination. In theory, the system already, exists, but "examination for promotion" is not a very drastic process and candidates are seldo held up, more's the pity. The Navy Personnel bill would make compulsory a transfer of a certain number of officers, in all grades above senior Lieutenants, every year, to the reserve list, whenever on June 30 the average age of the officers of the specified rank exceeds a specified figure. Thus, when the average age of our Rear Admirals is over 50, four of them shall be put on the reserve list and their places filled by the promotion of Captains. The selection for transfer and the selection for promotion are to be made on a basis of rigid examination. The officers thus transferred are eliminated from the active list and are assigned to shore duty. While there might be infrequent cases of hardship to individuals, there can be no doubt that some such system would be of immense benefit to both

the army and the navy. There has been some confusion over this bill by reason of certain grievances which exist among the naval staff officers who are really in no way affected by it. These are urgeons, paymasters, constructors, &c. They have rank in the service, but no specific title which indicates their rank. They want titles. In the army, the surgeon, the commissary, the inspector, the quar-termaster, is a Captain, a Major, a Colonel, a General. In the navy a paymaster is a paymaster, whatever his grade, and th same holds with surgeons and other staff men. They want to be Lieutenant, Com mander, Captain, Admiral. Only the hardhearted and the cynical will blame or criti-

cise them. But the Personnel bill does not affect thes gentlemen. Their turn will come later.

## VOICE-RUINING BRACES.

Secret of the American Man's Unmelodiou TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The curtal had fallen on the third act of "Faust" and Geraldine

Farrar had finished acknowledging the outburst of applause, when a woman in the balcony asked "Why is it there are so many great American prima donnas but no men singers of much account

n this country? What is the reason?" "Suspenders," was his answer. "Suspenders?" she repeated. "Yes, suspenders," said he. "A high chest and receding abdomen, you know, are prime requisited to good singing. Women wear next to nothing above the waist and their skirts depend from the

hips. Their corsets keep in the abdomen and help support the chest; and when they breathe they get a high breath even when they begin taking it low which is of course where they ought to begin tak the laryng and their tones float out on a stream of air like corks on water." "Yes; but suspenders?" she asked.
"Well," said he, "look at the men. They we

heavy trousers, full of hardware, suspended from their shoulders; and, in addition, ten to twenty pounds of waistcoat, jackets and over anging on the shoulders and pulling down the Their trunks resemble a pear, big end down Having protruding abdomens and receding cheats they breathe 'abominably,' as Mrs. Partington says, and drag up tones like pulling a cat out of

"But don't Europeans wear suspenders?" was her

"Some do," was the answer; "more now than But few Italians wear suspenders. Their attire consists principally of peckaboo shirt waist [and knee breeches in which they usually carry only a light dagger, two plastres and a piece of macaron There is no weight on their shoulders, and their temperament being of the chest projecting variety, they naturally sing better than other people.

"I see," said the woman. EAST ORANGE, January 20. J. P. GORIN.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Your article on the death of Eugene of the old minstrel pair Unsworth and Eugene, recalls a good deal to the mind of the old timer and bids one of this sort ask: Does any one know the whereabouts or the fate of Leon, invariably billed as "Only Leon" of the

Kelly and Leon Minstrels? He too impersonated the colored female, and while lacking the voice of Eugene was a far more accomplished artist, possessing a high degree of talent, especially in the buriesque line.

While opera bouffe was the vegue at the old French Theatre in Fourteenth street and the music of Offenbach was in its first great popularity Kelly and Leon were burlesquing "The Grand Duchess" and "La Belle Helene" at their little house in Twentyfourth street, where or very near where the Madi-son Square Theatre stands. I remember, too, that the fun soon ceased, abruptly and tragically, fo late one afternoon Kelly during a quarrel killed a man, and though upon his trial it was proved that Kelly killed in self-defence minstrelsy passed away from that particular spot forever.

Kelly and Leon were also at one time at either

720 or 728 Broadway. Just when was that? Referring again to the Twenty-fourth street louse. I have never observed any allusions to the house, I have never observed any allusions to the fact that in the early or middle '80s George Christie there ran a minstrel show. Will Budworth played the tambourine and G. W. H. Griffin was middle man. The Guy brothers, George and Willie, used to do a song and dance turn. Let some old New Yorker tell us something of these. Also something of the Later Later. New York Circuit in Fact News about Lew Lent's New York Circus in East Four-G. E. H. NEW YORK, January 21.

## Virginia Distinction.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Though 1906 witnessed many lynchings in the South, the State of Virginia came off with a clean record. This fact of virginia came on when are the courage and the energy dis-played by her Governor in dealing with mobs of all kinds. Most of the lynchings of negroes by te men could have been averted if the auth of the Governors of the various Southern States had The State of Virginia stands out as a striking

example of good order and still better citizenship. NEW YORK, January 21. LOUIS KERPEN.

# In eighteen hundred and seventy-two-Or somewhere thereabouts-

New York was electrified through and through By a series of jubilant shouts: "Hurrah for the elevated road. And the rapid transit le-ver The city may grow, but we shall know No more congestive fever."

In eighteen hundred and ninety, say-

My figures are not exacte change from the ancient one horse shay To the trolley was made a fact; And the city was pleased as it could be For hope is a great dece "This time, for sure, we have found the cure,"

They cried, "of congestive feveri" In nineteen hundred and five-that's right-They opened the subway system, And the trains set out on their endless flight So fast that we've often missed them Or a lawyer who's made receiver "Let it be resolved that the problem's solved,"

They cried, "of congestive fever!" In nineteen hundred and seven, alast The town is a crowded hive, And before you get out of the struggling mass You're far more dead than alive; But we're tunnelling under the river now. Like a brave, industrious beaver And we'll get relief, or we'll come to grief,

WILLIAM WALLACE WRITELOCK.

With a bad congestive fever.

BANK IN THE NAVY.

The Case of Staff Officers Who Complate

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Staff fficers hold certain naval grades, estab by law, which have the same designation and in fact are the same, as those est for naval officers of corresponding rank in the line. Staff officers can indicate their rank in the navy only by the name of their grade. They are paid according to that grade. No staff officer can receive his pay grade. No staff officer can receive his pay without signing a receipt and naming the

grade for which he has accepted pay.

If a staff officer is abroad his status among foreign officers can be determined only by his naval grade, because naval grades have corresponding grades in all navies. The long and the short of the "War over Titles for the Navy" is that there are certain sub-ordinate officers in the executive depart-ment who have undertaken to prevent staff officers of the navy from the use of the terms or words that alone designate their rank in the service.

or words that alone designate their rank in the service.

By courtesy and usage, which have grown from necessity, line officers are addressed by the word expressing their grade, whether such officers are on duty or not. But ever since Congress established naval grades for officers of the staff of the navy obstacles have been thrown in their official path to prevent the use of the rank designated, as if they, as Americans, had no right to the privileges accorded them by law because they happened not to be in the line.

It is to resist wrong and not to attack any single interest of the line that the staff men plead for justice and the law. And what they ask for in their own right is recognized by the courts of their country. It is in accord with the sense of justice which controls their countrymen. The Court of Claims has said:

It does not follow that rank and office are always.

It does not follow that rank and office are always identical, and in point of fact they are not so. Rank is often used to express something different from office. It then becomes a designation or title of honor, dignity or distinction conferred upon an officer in order to fix his relative position with reference to other officers in matters of privileges, precedence, and sometimes of command, or by which to determine his pay and emoluments.

which to determine his pay and emoluments.

The staff officers of the navy object to the deprivation of their rights by abuse of executive power, and propose to submit their grievances to Congress and the American people. They ask for a hearing by Congress, where they may present their reasons for protesting against the illegal discrimination they complain of. JOSEPH C. STEBBINS.

NEW YORK, January 21.

The Goose and the Golden Egg. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Too hard drive has been making of late at the trusts. railroads and other large corporate interest

rital to the prosperity of our country. There is an old saying about killing the goose that lays the golden egg. The goose should not be killed, but encouraged to a continuous production.

The corporate interests should exist unde such restrictions that all interests involved eceive a fair and just recognition. Laws have been passed and commission

appointed to see to it that the corporations deal justly with all. Let the commissions do their duty. The

powers that be should not take these vast interests by the throat and curb them too heroically. Such a course does injustice to vast number of innocent parties interested destroys confidence and will produce injustic if persisted in. Speculation is an absolute essential to en

terprise. This should be borne in mind. We are on the eve of vast improvements involving millions, and they will be of the greates benefit to the country when carried out. It is not well to alarm confidence by impetuo though perhaps well meaning methods.

OLD NEW YORKER. NEW YORK, January 22.

## Lawyer and Guilty Client

To the Editor of The SUN-Sir: It is at old saying that one who criticises a book page. The reviewer who did me the honor American Lawyer" omitted to read a chapter and he inadvertently makes this statement A rather extreme view about the duty of a lawyer

who becomes aware of the guilt of his client seem to be taken by Mr. Dos Passos. As we understan-him, the ideal lawyer would throw up the case. Then he thrusts his critical rapier deep nto my past history by alluding to the h cide case of Edward S. Stokes, with which I was connected, and stated that if his guilt

had been left to counsel he would not have escaped the gallows. If the critic had read page 155 he would have found my views upon With an opinion of guilt, based upon st

of knowledge and belief, is a lawyer justified in defending the culprit? With this moral conviction of guilt upon his mind, has he the right to espouse

such a case? complete right to do so. I object to being charged with inconsistency in this connection and to have myself painted better than I am. John R. Dos Passos. New York, January 20.

A Great Bestonian's Charity. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: The cold weather the other day reminded me of a story about John Butin Moran that puts the gentleman in quite a different light from what you are in habit of throwing on him. The story is of an act of spontaneous and unheralded charity.

One cold morning our paragon of civic virtue limbed out of the Park street subway to walk up to climbed out of the Park street subway to walk up to his office. Across the street, in front of the Park Street Church, stood a poor fellow selling papers. The tey north wind was blowing through his scant clothing and his spare flesh, hitting him on the marrow. The only part of him that was not cold was the stump of his wooden leg. He had no overcoat. "Paper, sir?" he asked as Moran approached. In Moran's heart there was pity that did not show in his face. He knew that like mer. did not show in his face. He knew that, like mer-cury, human marrow was sensitive to blasts of old. He shook his head when offered a paper Like Toistot, he thinks that all papers lie and are

"Where is your coat, my friend?" inquired the District Attorney. "If I had a coat it would be on my back," answered the shivering mortal. "How would you like to have one?" asked Moran. "How would a hungry dog like to have a bone!" replied the man with the wooden member. "Well, you can have mine," said Moran, as he took it off and handed it to the paper seller and before the results." handed it to the paper seller, and before the re-cipient of the unexpected gift could get his breath o utter words of thanks the foe of vice had dis

And that is the act of the man who not a long while ago was reproached with being an irreligio olitician. Such Christian conduct as this will put shame those who attempt to traduce the kind hearted prosecutor. BOSTON, January 21.

Reading Matter for Panama.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: In answer to he communication of Mrs. G. E. Youmans of East Orange and to the queries of others with similar generous intentions in regard to sending reading matter to the hospitals of Panama I desire to say that R. L. Walker, traffic manager of the Panama Railroad Company, will forward free of charge from New York city to the Isthmus reading matter addressed "Reading matter for canal hospitals, Panama Railroad Steamship Company, pler 57, foot of West Twenty seventh street, New York city FULLERTON L. WALDO.

POMFRET CENTRE, Conn., January 19. The Peace of Swettenham (With all sorts of apologies to George Canning.)
If e'er John Bull and Uncle Sam Fear minor troubles threaten 'em, Let each eschew the cablegram, Remembering the utter dam-Foolishness of Swettenham

Should German wurst and Yankee ham Get out their knives for whettin 'em, Let each be silent as a clam

And ponder on the awful dam-Foolishness of Swettenham, Foolishness of Swettenham. Our Stars and Stripes find frettin' 'em. We'll bid France recollect the gram-

Mar, rhetoric and eke the dam -If Russian Bear or Persian Lamb Should apprehend blood wettin' 'em-

Or e'en the elephant of Stam-Let all of them think of the dam-Foolishness of Swettenham Foolishness of Swettenham If cruiser, battleship and ram Despite the cost of gettin' 'em, Should say: "I wonder why I am-Why seek The Hague, near Ar ill that was long before the dam-Foolishness of Swettenham,

# HELP FOR STENOGRAPHERS.

One of Them Suggests Better Pay Instead TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While stenographers are grateful for Dr. Geer's sympathy, they think the uplifting of the stenographer must be along different lines. and that the greatest good that can be done for girls and women in the business is to help

them acquire a higher degree of proficiency and to obtain living wages.

The chaotic condition of the stenographic market is caused to a great extent by the teachers of the numerous business colleges who assure anybody with the price of tuition that he or she can become a competent ata-nographer in a very short time. Applicants should be obliged to pass a Regents' examination before entering the shorthand school The examination of the business college should also be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents, and stenographers should not be turned loose on a busy public without a license guaranteeing that they can write

shorthand and also transcribe it. It is easy enough to write, but it is sometimes hard to read what has been written. Any person hiring a licensed engineer is reasonably sure that his boiler won't blow up. A licensed plumber in nine cases out of ten will do very satisfactory work. Before these men were required to pass examinations, accidents and defective work were very common. A busy man is often obliged to try fifteen or twenty applicants before securing one stenographer of average ability.

Persons possessing the license should receive a salary to start with not lower than \$10 a week. They should be advanced every six months until the end of the second year, when they should be proficient and well worth \$25 a week. Instead of anything like a guar anteed scale of wages for competent work, what do we find? A corporation in this city with a surplus of \$50,000,000 refuses to pay women stenographers at the beginning more than \$10 a week. The applicant must be experienced, for the work is technical, and few, if any, beginners could do it. The management of this concern does not seem to take into consideration how much of the time of its managers is wasted in trying to secure help at this munificent salary. The comptroller of the company is quoted as having said: "At the end of two years stenographers are as good as they ever will be. If they don't want to work for what we give them, they can go elsewhere." A great railroad man, whose name heads the news columns almost every day, spent \$17,000 or rugs and desks for his office a year ago, and about the same time offered an expert stenographer \$13 a week for her services. It is such conditions that make rescue leagues necessar!, but not leagues such as Dr. Geer proposes.

With \$25 a week as the assured salary of a competent stenographer, the morality question would largely take care of itself. If a stenographer felt sure that she could command such a salary the number of those who would put up with any philandering on the part of employers would be very small. In these times, with the cost of living greatly increased and rents high, the stenographer who is earning \$25 a week, or in fact any thing near it, is likely to hesitate before giving the boss the slap in th up. A licensed plumber in nine cases out of ten will do very satisfactory work. Before

deserves.

But I want to say a word in favor of employers. During the eleven years that I have been in business the men with whom I have worked have always treated me kindly and considerately. I don't deny that deplorable conditions exist, but it is hard to say how they can be eliminated If a young woman falls in love with a man for whom she works and he proves a deceiver, "as men have been ever," the situation affords a theme for a three volume novel or a five act play, but not for morbid moralizing and rescue work.

NEW YORK, January 21. Typewriter.

Again the Senate met. Again the chosen rep-Again the Schate met. Again the chosen representatives of forty-five sovereign States took up their high duties. Again they beheld the inroads that had been made on their sacred rights, prerogatives and privileges.

"This must cease!" exclaimed a great leader, his lips tense with determination.

"We must assert ourselves!" proclaimed another man of mighty influence outside the White House. "We will defend ourselves!" answered a third,

with ominous frown.

"The time has come!" shouted one who seemed II.

"Let 'em talk," said the man with the teeth, as he bit off another clause of the Constitution and added it to his already wonderful collection usurped rights. "Here we part company with him forever!" ejaculated a statesman in the Senate.

"We shall not stop at impeachment, if that last,

stern remedy is nee

"He must submit to usi" roared a massive man IV. "Let 'em talk," chuckled the man with the ter

cessary!" were the words of one

as he threw the Constitution into the fire. "On to the White House!" came from the enraged

"His finish is in sight!" murmured the excited onlookers as the Senate started on its history chang-

"What's the noise, Loeb?" asked the man with the teeth, as he folded up an act of Congress stuff a rattling window.
"The Senate is outside, determined to assert its rights," answered the faithful Secretary. "Oh, fudge!" came from between the teeth, in an annoyed tone, as their proprietor annexed another

function of the legislative department. VII. "Wha'dye want?" snapped the man with the teeth, as he threw a Supreme Court decision out of the window and confronted the indignant Senators, who with set, white faces, stood before him.

"We have come to insist on the observance by you of the constitutional restrictions of your office," began the spokesman, in solemn, measured words. We are here to demand that in the future you shall The man with the teeth looked frowningly on them as he twisted an opinion of the Attorney-General into a pipe squill. His brow contracted, His lips parted. The teeth glowed with an un-

"Booh!" the man with the teeth seemed to scream. VIII. And that settled it.

Improved Method of Farming in Mississippi. From the Union News.

According to customs of just a few years ago farmers in this country quit work as soon as the cotton was picked and did nothing until about the 1st of March, but luckily these old customs have changed. No ploughing for the next crop was done until spring opened and the birds were singing, but such is not so now. Farmers break heir land in the winter, turning all weeds and trash under, thereby getting advantage of an extra amount of fertilizer and making the land much easier to work. Improved farming implements have been introduced, the old time single stocks having been discarded. No other industry has been advanced more within the last few years. Farming is now one of the best professions in this country and good judgment is exercised by the boy who sticks to the farm instead of going out as one horse merchant or jack leg lawyer.

Sparrow Slaughter by Mayor's Orders.

Wilkesbarre correspondence Philadelphia Record. By order of Mayor Kirkendall, the work of ex-terminating the sparrows that gather in thousands in the trees on the Court House Square, much to the annoyance of pedestrians, has begun. A band of sharpshooters has been at work for two evenings. As soon as the birds settle down for the night the firing begins. Over a thousand were slaughtered Italians secure the dead birds and make potples out of them.

London now has six underground electric rail-ways (tubes) in operation, and five more are under construction or projected. The railways of Los-don, underground and surface, carry more than 600,000,000 persons each year, of which under-ground lines accommodate,258,000,000. There are nearly 600 railway stations in greater London, annually more than 300,000,000 passengers.

## Searching the Title.

From the Nineteenth Century and After.
It can readily be understood that it is necessary for any one taking a divorced man or woman as a husband or wife [in the United States] to have his or her right to remarry examined into by a lawyer. as a purchaser would have the title to a house examined before he accepted the deed.

#### Fashion Notes From Il-chin. From the Korean Datty News. The II chin people in the north are reported to be again putting up the hair in a topknot and don-ning the hair band.

Salome was dancing the dance of the Seven Vella, "And not an automobile one in the lot," she wailed. Bitterly she realized that she could never be in